A

TRANSLATION

OF

CITIZEN FAUCHET's

POLITICAL DISPATCH,

No. 10.

PHILADELPHIA:

SOLD AT

THE POLITICAL BOOK-STORE,

South Front-Street,

No. 8.

Published by T. BRADFORD,

January 7, 1795.

TRANSLATION *of Mr. Fauchet's Political Dispatch, No. 10.*

LEGATION OF PHILADELPHIA.
FOREIGN RELATIONS.
Private Correspondence of the Minister on Politics.
No. 10.

Philadelphia, the 10th Brumaire, 3d year of French Republic, one and indivisible.
(October 31st, 1794.)

Joseph Fauchet, Minister Plenipotentiary of the French Republic, near the United States.

To the Commissioner of Foreign Relations.

CITIZEN,

1. THE measures which prudence prescribes to me to take, with respect to my colleagues, have still presided in the digesting of the dispatches signed by them, which treat of the insurrection of the western counties, and of the repressive means adopted by the government. I have allowed them to be confined to the giving of a faithful, but naked recital of events: the reflections therein contained scarcely exceed the conclusions easily deducible from the character assumed by the public prints. I have reserved myself to give you as far as I am able a key to the facts detailed in our reports. When it comes in question to explain, either by conjectures or a certain data, the secret views of a foreign government, it would be imprudent to

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run the risk of indiscretions, and to give oneself up to men, whose known partiality for that government, and similitude of passions and interests with its chiefs, might lead to confidences, the issue of which are incalculable. Besides the precious confessions of Mr. Randolph alone throw a satisfactory light upon every thing that comes to pass. These I have not yet communicated to my colleagues. The motives already mentioned lead to this reserve, and still less permit me to open myself to them at the present moment. I shall then endeavour, Citizen, to give you a clue to all the measures, of which the common dispatches give you an account, and to discover the true causes of the explosion, which it is obstinately resolved to repress with great means, although the state of things has no longer any thing alarming.

2. To confine the present crisis to the simple question of the excise is to reduce it far below its true scale; it is indubitably connected with a general explosion for some time prepared in the public mind, but which this local and precipitate eruption will cause to miscarry, or at least check for a long time;—in order to see the real cause, in order to calculate the effect, and the consequences, we must ascend to the origin of the parties existing in the state, and retrace their progress.

3. The present system of government has created malcontents. This is the lot of all new things. My predecessors have given information in detail upon the parts of the system which have particularly awakened clamours and produced enemies to the whole of it. The primitive divisions of opinion as to the political form of the state, and the limits of the sovereignty of the whole over each state individually sovereign, had created the federalists and anti-

federaliſts. From a whimſical contraſt between the name and the real opinion of the parties, a contraſt hitherto little underſtood in Europe, the former aimed, and ſtill aim, with all their power, to annihilate federaliſm, whilſt the latter have always wiſhed to preſerve it. This contraſt was created by the *Conſolidators* or the Conſtitutionaliſts*, who being firſt in giving the denominations (a matter ſo important in a revolution) took for themſelves that which was the moſt popular, although in reality it contradicted their ideas, and gave to their rivals one which would draw on them the attention of the people, notwithſtanding they really wiſhed to preſerve a ſyſtem whoſe prejudices ſhould cheriſh at leaſt the memory and the name.

4. Moreover theſe firſt diviſions, of the nature of thoſe to be deſtroyed by time, in proportion as the nation ſhould have advanced in the experiment of a form of government which rendered it flouriſhing, might now have completely diſappeared, if the ſyſtem of finance which had its birth in the cradle of the conſtitution, had not renewed their vigour under various forms. The mode of organizing the national credit, the conſolidating and funding of the public debt, the introduction in the political economy of the uſage of ſtates, which prolong their exiſtence or ward off their fall only by expedient, imperceptibly created a financiering claſs who threaten to become the ariſtocratical order of the ſtate. Several citizens, and among others thoſe who had aided in eſtabliſhing independence with their purſes or their arms, conceived themſelves aggrieved by thoſe fiſcal engagements. Hence an oppoſition which declares itſelf between the farming or agricultural intereſt, and that of the fiſcal; federaliſm and antifederaliſm, which are founded

* *Conſtituans.*

on thoſe new denominations, in proportion as the treaſury uſurps a preponderence in the government and legiſlation: Hence in fine, the ſtate, divided into partiſans and enemies of the treaſurer and of his theories. In this new claſification of parties, the nature of things gave popularity to the latter, an innate inſtinct, if I may uſe the expreſſion, cauſed the ears of the people to revolt at the names alone of *treaſurer* and *ſtockjobber*: but the oppoſite party, in conſequence of its ability, obſtinately perſiſted in leaving to its adverſaries the ſuſpicious name of *anti-federaliſt*, whilſt in reality they were friends of the conſtitution, and enemies only of the excreſences which financiering theories threatened to attach to it.

5. It is uſeleſs to ſtop longer to prove that the monarchical ſyſtem was interwoven with thoſe novelties of finances, and that the friends of the latter favoured the attempts which were made in order to bring the conſtitution to the former by inſenſible gradations. The writings of influential men of this party prove it; their real opinions too avow it, and the journals of the ſenate are the depoſitory of the firſt attempts.

6. Let us, therefore, free ourſelves from the intermediate ſpaces in which the progreſs of the ſyſtem is marked, ſince they can add nothing to the proof of its exiſtence—Let us paſs by its ſympathy with our regenerating movements, while running in monarchical paths—Let us arrive at the ſituation in which our Republican revolution has placed things and parties.

7. The antifederaliſts diſembarraſs themſelves of an inſignificant denomination, and take that of patriots and republicans. Their adverſaries become *ariſtocrats*, notwithſtanding their efforts to preſerve the advantageous illuſion

of ancient names; opinions clash, and press each other; the aristocratic attempts which formerly had appeared so insignificant, are recollected: The treasurer, who is looked upon as their first source, is attacked; his operations and plans is denounced to the public opinion; nay, in the sessions of 1792 and 1793, a solemn inquiry into his administration was obtained. The first victory was to produce another, and it was hoped that, faulty or innocent, the treasurer would retire, no less by necessity in the one case, than from self-love in the other. He, emboldened by the triumph which he obtained in the useless enquiries of his enemies, of which both objects proved equally abortive, seduced besides by the momentary reverse of republicanism in Europe, removes the mask and announces the approaching triumph of his principles.

8. In the mean time, the popular societies are formed; political ideas concenter themselves, the patriotic party unite and more closely connect themselves; they gain a formidable majority in the legislature; the abasement of commerce, the slavery of navigation, and the audacity of England, strenghten it. A concert of declarations and censures against the government arises; at which the latter is even itself astonished.

9. Such was the situation of things towards the close of the last and at the beginning of the present year. Let us pass over the discontents which were most generally expressed in these critical moments. They have been sent to you at different periods, and in detail. In every quarter are arraigned the imbecility of the government towards Great Britain, the defenceless state of the country against possible invasions, the coldness towards the French Republic: the system of finance is attacked, which threatens eter-

nifing the debt under pretext of making it the guaranty of public happinefs; the complication of that fyftem which withholds from general infpection all its operation,—the alarming power of the influence it procures to a man whofe principles are regarded as dangerous,—the preponderance which that man acquires from day to day in public meafures, and in a word the immoral and impolitic modes of taxation, which he at firft prefents as expedients, and afterwards raifes to permanency.

10. In touching this laft point we attain the principal complaint of the weftern people, and the oftenfible motive of their movements. Republicans by principle, independent by character and fituation, they could not but accede with enthufiafm to the criminations which we have fketched. But the *excife* above all affects them. Their lands are fertile, watered with the fineft rivers in the world: but the abundant fruits of their labour run the rifk of perifhing for the want of means of exchanging them, as thofe more happy cultivators do for objects which defire indicates to all men who have known only the enjoyments which Europe procures them. They therefore convert the excefs of their produce into liquors imperfectly fabricated, which badly fupplies the place of thofe they might procure by exchange. The *excife* is created and ftrikes at this confoling transformation; their complaints are anfwered by the only pretext that they are otherwife inacceffible to every fpecies of impoft. But why, in contempt of treaties, are they left to bear the yoke of the feeble Spaniard, as to the Miffifippi, for upwards of twelve years? Since when has an agricultural people fubmitted to the unjuft capricious law of a people explorers of the precious metals? Might we not fuppofe that Madrid and Philadelphia mutu-

ally aſſiſted in prolonging the ſlavery of the river; that the proprietors of a barren coaſt are afraid leſt the Miſſiſippi once opened, and its numerous branches brought into activity, their fields might become deſerts, and in a word that commerce dreads having rivals in thoſe interior parts as ſoon as their inhabitants ſhall ceaſe to be ſubjects? This laſt ſuppoſition is but too well founded; an influential member of the Senate, Mr. Izard, one day in converſation undiſguiſedly announced it to me.

11. I ſhall be more brief in my obſervations on the murmurs excited by the ſyſtem for the ſale of lands. It is conceived to be unjuſt that theſe vaſt and fertile regions ſhould be ſold by provinces to capitaliſts, who thus enrich themſelves, and retail with immenſe profits, to the huſbandmen, poſſeſſions which they have never ſeen. If there were not a latent deſign to arreſt the rapid ſettlement of thoſe lands, and to prolong their infant ſtate, why not open in the weſt land offices, where every body without diſtinction, ſhould be admitted to purchaſe by a large or ſmall quantity? Why reſerve to ſell or diſtribute to favourites, to a clan of flatterers, of courtiers, that which belongs to the ſtate, and which ſhould be ſold to the greateſt poſſible profit of all its members?

12. Such therefore were the parts of the public grievance, upon which the weſtern people moſt inſiſted. Now, as the common diſpatches inform you, theſe complaints were ſyſtematizing by the converſations of influential men who retired into thoſe wild countries, and who from principle, or by a ſeries of particular heart-burnings, animated diſcontents already too near to effervescence. At laſt the local exploſion is effected. The weſtern people calculated

on being ſupported by ſome diſtinguiſhed characters in the eaſt, and even imagined they had in the boſom of the government ſome abetters, who might ſhare in their grievances or their principles.

13. From what I have detailed above, thoſe men might indeed be ſuppoſed numerous. The ſeſſions of 1793 and 1794 had given importance to the republican party, and ſolidity to its accuſations. The propoſitions of Mr. Madiſon, or his project of a navigation act, of which Mr. Jefferſon was originally the author, ſapped the Britiſh intereſt, now an integral part of the financiering ſyſtem. Mr. Taylor, a republican member of the Senate, publiſhed, towards the end of the ſeſſion, three pamphlets, in which this laſt is explored to its origin, and developed in its progreſs and conſequences with force and method, in the laſt he aſſerts that the decrepid ſtate of affairs reſulting from that ſyſtem, could not but preſage, under a riſing government, either a revolution or a civil war.

14. The firſt was preparing: the government, which had foreſeen it, reproduced, under various forms, the demand of a diſpoſable* force which might put it in a reſpectable ſtate of defence. Defeated in this meaſure, who can aver that it may not have haſtened the local eruption, in order to make an advantageous diverſion, and to lay the more general ſtorm which it ſaw gathering? Am I not authorized in forming this conjecture from the converſation which the Secretary of State had with me and Le Blanc, alone, an account of which you have in my diſpatch, No. 3? But how may we expect that this new plan will be executed? By exaſperating and ſevere meaſures, authoriſed by a law which was not ſolicited till the cloſe of the ſeſſion. This law gave to the one already exiſting for collecting the

* Diſponible.

excise a coercive force which hitherto it had not possessed, and a demand of which was not before ventured to be made†. By means of this new law all the refractory citizens to the old one, were caused to be pursued with a sudden rigor; a great number of writs were issued; doubtless the natural consequences from a conduct so decisive and so harsh were expected; and before these were manifested the means of repression had been prepared; this was undoubtedly what Mr. Randolph meant in telling me *that under pretext of giving energy to the government it was intended to introduce absolute power and to mislead the President in paths which would conduct him to unpopularity.*

15. Whether the explosion has been provoked by the government; or owes its birth to accident, it is certain that a commotion of some hundreds of men, who have not since been found in arms, and the very pacific union of the counties in Braddock's Field, a union which has not been revived, were not symptoms which could justify the raising of so great a force as 15,000 men. Besides the principles, uttered in the declarations hitherto made public, rather announced ardent minds to be calmed than anarchists to be subdued. But in order to obtain something on the public opinion prepossessed against the demands contemplated to be made, it was necessary to magnify the danger, to disfigure the views of those people, to attribute to them the design of uniting themselves with England, to alarm the citizens for the fate of the constitution, whilst in reality the revolution threatened only the ministers. This step succeeded: an army is raised; this military part

† This law was mentioned in the comment upon the laws of the last session inclosed in No. 9. of the correspondence of the minister.

of the ſuppreſſion is doubtleſs Mr. Hamilton's, the pacific part and the ſending of commiſſioners are due to the influence of Mr. Randolph over the mind of the Preſident, whom I delight always to believe, and whom I do believe, truly virtuous, and the friend of his fellow citizens and principles.

16. In the mean time, although there was a certainty of having an army, yet it was neceſſary to aſſure themſelves of co-operators among the men whoſe patriotic reputation might influence their party, and whoſe lukewarmneſs or want of energy in the exiſting conjunctures might compromit the ſucceſs of the plans. Of all the governors whoſe duty it was to appear at the head of the requiſitions, the governor of Pennſylvania alone enjoyed the name of Republican: his opinion of the Secretary of the Treaſury and of his ſyſtems was known to be unfavourable. The Secretary of this State poſſeſſed great influence in the Popular Society of Philadelphia, which in its turn influenced thoſe of other ſtates; of courſe he merited attention. It appears therefore that theſe men with others unknown to me, all having without doubt Randolph at their head, were balancing to decide on their party. Two or three days before the proclamation was publiſhed, and of courſe before the cabinet had reſolved on its meaſures, Mr. Randolph came to ſee me with an air of great eagerneſs, and made to me the overtures of which I have given you an account in my No. 6. Thus with ſome thouſands of dollars the Republic could have decided on civil war or on peace! Thus the conſciences of the pretended patriots of America have already their prices* ? It is very true that the certainty of theſe concluſions, painful to be drawn, will forever

* *Tarif.*

exist in our archives! What will be the old age of this government, if it is thus early decrepid! Such, citizen, is the evident consequence of the system of finances conceived by Mr. Hamilton. He has made of a whole nation a stockjobbing, speculating, selfish people. Riches alone here fix consideration; and as no one likes to be despised, they are universally sought after. Nevertheless this depravity has not yet embraced the mass of the people; the effects of this pernicious system have as yet but slightly touched them. Still there are patriots, of whom I delight to entertain an idea worthy of that imposing title. Consult Monroe, he is of this number; he had apprised me of the men whom the current of events had dragged along as bodies devoid of weight. His friend Madison is also an honest man. Jefferson, on whom the patriots cast their eyes to succeed the President, had foreseen these crises. He prudently retired in order to avoid making a figure against his inclinations in scenes, the secret of which will soon or late be brought to light.

17. As soon as it was decided that the French Republic purchased no men to do their duty, there were to be seen individuals, about whose conduct the government could at least form uneasy conjectures, giving themselves up with a scandalous ostentation to its views, and even seconding its declarations. The Popular Societies soon emitted resolutions stamped with the same spirit, and who although they may have been advised by love of order, might nevertheless have omitted or uttered them with less solemnity. Then were seen coming from the very men whom we had been accustomed to regard as having little friendship for the system of the treasurer, harrangues without end, in order to give a new direction to the public mind. The militia, however, manifest some repugnance, particularly in Pennsylvania, for the service to which they were called. Several officers resign; at last by excursions or harrangues, incomplete requisitions are obtained, and scattered volunteer

corps from different parts make up the deficieny. How much more interesting, than the changeable men whom I have painted above, were those plain citizens who answered the solicitations which were made to them to join the volunteers—" If we are required we will march; because we do not wish not to have a government, but to arm ourselves as volunteers would be in appearance subscribing implicitly to the excise system which we reprobate."

18. What I have said above, authorises then our resting on the opinion become incontestible, that in the crisis which has burst, and in the means employed for restoring order, the true question was the destruction or the triumph of the treasurer's plans. This being once established, let us pass over the facts related in the common dispatches, and see how the government or the treasurer will take from the very stroke which threatened his system the safe opportunity of humbling the adverse party, and of silencing their enemies whether open or concealed. The army marched; the President made known that he was going to command it; he sat out for Carlisle; Hamilton, as I have understood, requested to follow him; the President dared not to refuse him. It does not require much penetration to divine the object of this journey: In the President it was wise, it might also be his duty. But in Mr. Hamilton it was a consequence of the profound policy which directs all his steps; a measure dictated by a perfect knowledge of the human heart. Was it not interesting for him, for his party, tottering under the weight of events without and accusations within, to proclaim an intimacy more perfect than ever with the President, whose very name is a sufficient shield against the most formidable attacks? Now what more evident mark could the President give of his intimacy than by suffering Mr. Hamilton whose name even is understood in the west as that of a public enemy, to go and place himself at the head of the army which went, if I may use the expression, to cause his system to triumph against the opposition of the people?

The preſence of Mr. Hamilton with the army muſt attach it more than ever to his party; we ſee what ideas theſe circumſtances give birth to on both ſides, all however to the advantage of the Secretary.

19. Three weeks had they encamped in the weſt without a ſingle armed man appearing. However the Preſident, or thoſe who wiſhed to make the moſt of this new manœuvre, made it public that he was going to command in perſon. The ſeſſion of Congreſs being very near, it was wiſhed to try whether there could not be obtained from the preſſes, which were ſuppoſed to have changed, a ſilence, whence to conclude the poſſibility of infringing the conſtitution in its moſt eſſential part; in that which fixes the relation of the Preſident with the legiſlature. But the patriotic papers laid hold of this artful attempt: I am certain that the office of the ſecretary of ſtate which alone remained at Philadelphia (for while the miniſter of finance was with the army, the miniſter of war was on a tour to the Province of Maine, 400 miles from Philadelphia) maintained the controverſy in favour of the opinion which it was deſired to eſtabliſh. A compariſon between the Preſident and the Engliſh monarch was introduced, who far removed from Weſtminſter, yet ſtrictly fulfils his duty of ſanctioning; it was much inſiſted on that the conſtitution declares that the Preſident commands the armed force: this ſimilitude was treated with contempt; the conſequence of the power of commanding in perſon, drawn from the right to command in chief (or direct) the force of the ſtate, was ridiculed and reduced to an abſurdity, by ſuppoſing a fleet at ſea and an army on land. The reſult of this controverſy was, that ſome days after it was announced that the Preſident would come to open the approaching ſeſſion.

20. During his ſtay at Bedford, the Preſident doubtleſs concerted the plan of the campaign with Mr. Lee, to whom he left the command in chief. The letter by which he delegates the command to him, is that of a virtuous man, at leaſt as to the major part of the ſentiments which it contains; he afterwards ſet out for Philadelphia, where he has juſt arrived, and Mr. Hamilton remains with the army.

21. This laſt circumſtance unveils all the plan of the Secretary; he preſides over the military operations, in order to acquire in the ſight of his enemies a formidable and impoſing conſideration. He and Mr. Lee the commander in chief, agree perfectly in principles. The governors of Jerſey and Maryland harmonize entirely with them; the governor of Pennſylvania, of whom it never would have been ſuſpected, lived intimately and publicly with Hamilton. Such a union of perſons would be matter ſufficient to produce reſiſtance in the weſtern counties, even admitting they had not thought of making any.

22. The ſoldiers themſelves are aſtoniſhed at the ſcandalous gaiety, with which thoſe who poſſeſs the ſecret, proclaim their approaching triumph. It is aſked, of what uſe are 15,000 men in this country, in which proviſions are ſcarce, and where are to be ſeized only ſome turbulent men at their plough. Thoſe who conducted the expedition know this; the matter is to create a great expence; when the ſums ſhall come to be aſſeſſed, no one will be willing to pay, and ſhould each pay his aſſeſſment, it will be done in curſing the inſurgent principles of the patriots.

23. It is impoſſible to make a more able manœuvre for the opening of Congreſs. The paſſions, the generous indignation, which had agitated their minds in the laſt ſeſſion, were about being renewed with ſtill more vigor;

there was nothing to announce of brilliant ſucceſſes which they had promiſed. The hoſtilities of Great Britain on the continent ſo long diſguiſed, and now become evident, a commerce always harraſſed, ridiculous negociations lingering at London, waiting until new conjunctures ſhould authorize new inſults: ſuch was the picture they were likely to have to offer the repreſentatives of the people. But this criſis, and the great movements made to prevent its conſequences, change the ſtate of things. With what advantage do they denounce an attrocious attack upon the conſtitution: and appreciate the activity uſed to repreſs it; the ariſtocratical party will ſoon have underſtood the ſecret; all the misfortunes will be attributed to patriots; the party of the latter is about being deſerted by all the weak men, and this complete ſeſſion will have been gained.

24. Who knows what will be the limits of this triumph? Perhaps advantage will be taken by it to obtain ſome laws for ſtrengthening the government, and ſtill more precipitating the propenſity, already viſible, that it has towards ariſtocracy.

25. Such are, citizen, the data which I poſſeſs concerning theſe events, and the conſequences I draw from them: I wiſh I may be deceived in my calculations, and the good diſpoſition of the people; their attachment to principles lead me to expect it. I have perhaps herein fallen into the repetition of reflections and facts contained in other diſpatches, but I wiſhed to preſent together ſome views which I have reaſon to aſcribe to the ruling party, and ſome able manœuvres invented to ſupport themſelves. Without participating in the paſſions of the parties, I obſerve them; and I owe to my country an exact and ſtrict account of the ſitu-

ation of things. I ſhall make it my duty to keep you regularly informed of every change that may take place; above all I ſhall apply myſelf to penetrate the diſpoſition of the legiſlature; that will not a little aſſiſt in forming the final idea which we ought to have of theſe movements, and what we ſhould really fear or hope from them.

Health and fraternity.

(Signed) JH: FAUCHET.

Extract from the Political Diſpatch, No. 3. of Joſeph Fauchet, to the Miniſter of Foreign Affairs.

"THEN the Secretary of State appeared to open himſelf without reſerve. He imparted to me the inteſtine diviſions, which were rumbling in the United States. The idea of an approaching commotion affected him deeply. He hoped to prevent it, by the aſcendency which he daily acquired over the mind of the Preſident, who conſulted him in all affairs, and to whom he told the truth, which his colleagues diſguiſed from him.

"The Preſident of the United States, ſays he, is the mortal enemy of England; and the friend of France. I can affirm it upon my honour. But not mixing with the world, he may be circumvented by the dark manœuvres of ſome men, who wind themſelves in an hundred ways, to draw him into meaſures, which will cauſe him to loſe all his popularity. Under the pretext of giving energy to government, they would abſolutely make a monarch of him. They deceive him, as to the true ſpirit of the people; as well as upon the affairs of France. I am ſure, that at this moment, he eſcapes from them, and that in all theſe perfidious manœuvres they have not been able to diſſuade him from pronouncing with vigor againſt the miniſtry of England. He has——But it is impoſſible for me in conſcience to make to you this confeſſion. I ſhould betray the duties of my office. Every thing, which I can ſay to you, is, that it is important for our two nations, that you continue to viſit him frequently. He will be touched with the proofs of friendſhip, which you ſhall teſtify to him; and I am ſure, that this will be an infallible means of cauſing them to be valued. I would quit

the poſt, which he has confided to me, if he could be brought to make any attempt upon the rights of the people. A bill has paſſed the houſe of repreſentatives, which wounds liberty. They have at leaſt taken away the article which prevents the ſale of the French prizes in our ports. My heart is troubled by it. But I have ſeen with pleaſure, that my reflections on this ſubject upon the dreadful criſis, which would reſult from an abuſe of it, have made a deep impreſſion upon the mind, I will even ſay ;—upon the heart of the Preſident, who is an honourable man. Let us unite Mr. Fauchet to draw our two nations cloſer together. Thoſe, who love liberty, are for fraternizing with the French Republic, the partizans of ſlavery prefer an alliance with England.

" I, he ſaid to me (in ſpeaking of the treaty of Jay*) that there is no queſtion in his miſſion, but to demand a ſolemn reparation for the ſpoliations, which our commerce has experienced on the part of England ; and to give you a proof, that Mr. Jay cannot enter into a negociation contrary to what we owe to France, I will give you the part of the inſtructions, which concern it.

" Although the following note, which I have, written in his own hand, with a promiſe to burn it, be little important, I annex it hereto.

" If the Engliſh miniſtry ſhall inſinuate, that the whole or a-
" ny part of theſe inſtructions ſhould appear to be influenced by
" a ſuppoſed predilection in favour of France, you will arreſt
" the ſubject as being foreign to the preſent queſtion. It is what
" the Engliſh nation has no right to object to ; becauſe we are
" free in our ſentiments and independent in our government."

" The following caſe is to be unchangeable. As there is no
" doubt, that the Engliſh miniſtry will endeavour to detach us
" from France, you will inform them of the firm determination
" of the government of the United States, not to deviate from
" our treaties, or our engagements with France."

* *The word* affirm, *appears to be omitted in the certified copy.*

Extract from the Political Diſpatch, No. 6. of Citizen Fauchet, Miniſter Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to the United States.

" SCARCE was the commotion known, when the Secretary of State came to my houſe. All his countenance was grief He requeſted of me a private converſation. It is all over, ſaid he

to me. A civil war is about to ravage our unhappy country. Four men by their talents, their influence, and their energy may ſave it. But debtors of Engliſh merchants, they will be deprived of their liberty, if they take the ſmalleſt ſtep. Could you lend them inſtantaneouſly funds, ſufficient to ſhelter them from Engliſh perſecution. This enquiry aſtoniſhed me much. It was impoſſible for me to make a ſatisfactory anſwer. You know my want of power, and my defect of pecuniary means. I ſhall draw myſelf from the affair by ſome common place remarks, and by throwing myſelf on the pure and unalterable principles of the Republic.

"I have never ſince heard of propoſitions of this nature."

I the underſigned Peter Auguſtus Adet, Miniſter Plenipotentiary of the French Republic, near the United States of America, certify thoſe to whom it may belong, that the diſpatches, No. 3. and 6. mentioned in the diſpatch No. 10. of the 10th of Brumaire, in the 3d year, addreſſed by Citizen Fauchet, my predeceſſor, to the commiſſary of exterior relations, are relative to a number of objects entirely foreign to Mr. Randolph, and that the extracts, which I have delivered to him agreeably to his requeſt, contain both the converſation and the overtures, of which Citizen Fauchet ſpeaks in his diſpatch.

I certify moreover that at the requeſt of Mr. Randolph I have examined the diſpatches of Citizen Fauchet to the French government; and that whenſoever Citizen Fauchet has had occaſion to ſpeak of Mr. Randolph, in reſpect to his morality, he always deſcribes him as an honeſt and upright man.

Given at Philadelphia, under my hand and ſeal of the French legation, the 4th of Vendemaire, in the 3d year of the Republic, one and indiviſible.

P. A. ADET.

FINIS.

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